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Message Text

SECRET

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72
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /088 W
---------- 121619
R 051444Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2650

S E C R E T ATHENS 1321

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GR
SUBJECT: FATE OF AVEROFF'S PLAN FOR RETURN TO POLITICAL NORMALCY

REF: ATHENS 1033

1. SUMMARY: AVEROFF HAS LEARNED HIS BRIDGE PROPOSAL NOT ACCEPTABLE TO REGIME IN PRESENT FORM, AND WHILE PESSIMISTIC, IS MAKING FURTHER EFFORT TO EXPLAIN FUTURE GUARANTEES IT WOULD PROVIDE FOR MILITARY LEADERS IN PRESENT ESTABLISHMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. I SAW FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AVEROFF AT DINNER MARCH 4. HE REPEATED THAT HE HAD LEARNED REGIME NOT FAVORABLE TO HIS BRIDGE PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, HE HAD RECEIVED FURTHER INFORMATION THAT THEY FEARED PROCEDURES PROPOSED WOULD NOT PRESERVE THEIR FUTURE. AVEROFF HAS THEREFORE SENT A SECOND LETTER TO PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS EXPLAINING FUTURE GUARANTEES IT PROVIDES FOR OFFICERS NOW HEADING MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

3. IT IS HARD TO JUDGE REAL STATUS OF AVEROFF'S CURRENT BRIDGE-BUILDING EFFORTS. IN CONVERSATION WITH DCM AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR FEB. 28, AVEROFF INFORMED US THAT HE KNEW HIS PAPER HAD BEEN GIVEN GOOD CIRCULATION BUT THAT HIS CONTACT HAD BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH
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IOANNIDES. BOTH EMBOFFS HAD IMPRESSION THAT AVEROFF WAS

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ENGAGED IN CERTAIN AMOUNT OF WISHFUL THINKING ABOUT
PROSPECTS FOR FAVORABLE RECEPTION BY REGIME OF HIS PLAN.

4. ON MARCH 2 AVEROFF CALLED AT HOME OF POLITICAL COUNSELOR
TO SAY HIS PLAN WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO PRESENT REGIME.
REASONS HE GAVE WERE THAT (A) REGIME CONTINUED TO INSIST
ON DEGREE OF INDEPENDENCE FOR MILITARY WHICH GAVE IT
CHARACTER OF "STATE WITHIN STATE" AND (B) HIS PLAN WOULD
EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF TRANSITION GOVERNMENT FROM PARTICIPATION
IN INITIAL ELECTIONS, WHEREAS REGIME WANTED TRANSITION
PERIOD OF 3 TO 4 YEARS BEFORE ELECTIONS, DURING WHICH
TIME IT WOULD ORGANIZE PARTY AND ARRANGE MATTERS TO
INSURE ELECTORAL SUCCESS.

5. AVEROFF WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE AND DOUBTFUL
THAT AT THIS TIME THERE WAS ANY WAY OUT OF PRESENT
IMPASSE THAT WOULD BE NON-BLOODY IN CHARACTER.
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